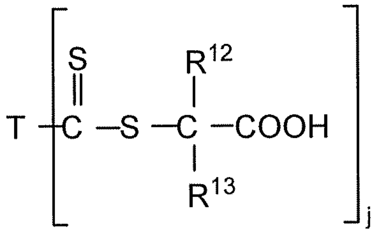
IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A composition, comprising a free radically polymerizable monomer selected from a conjugated diene monomer, a vinyl monomer and combinations thereof and a dithiocarbamate compound having the formula:



$$T\left[\overset{\overset{\displaystyle S}{\|}}{C}-S-\underset{\underset{\displaystyle R^{13}}{|}}{\overset{\overset{\displaystyle R^{12}}{|}}{C}}-COOH\right]_j$$

wherein j is 1 or 2;

wherein R^{12} and R^{13}, independently, are the same or different, are optionally substituted, and are a linear or branched alkyl having from 1 to about 12 carbon atoms; or an aryl group having from 6 to about 18 carbon atoms; or R^{12} and R^{13} can form and be part of a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic ring having from 3 to about 12 carbon atoms, wherein said substituted groups above are independently selected from alkyl having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms; an aryl group; a halogen; a cyano group; an ether having a total of from 2 to about 20 carbon atoms; a nitro; and combinations thereof;

with the proviso that when j is 1, T is ($-NR^{15}R^{16}$), and when j is 2, T is a divalent radical having a nitrogen atom directly connected to each carbon atom of the two thiocarbonyl groups; and

wherein R^{15} and R^{16}, independently, are the same or different, optionally substituted, and is hydrogen; or a linear or branched alkyl having from 1 to about 18 carbons; or an aryl group or an aryl alkyl group having from 6 to about 18 carbon atoms, optionally saturated or unsaturated; or an arylalkyl having from 7 to about 18 carbons; or an alkenealkyl having from 3 to about 18 carbon atoms; or polyalkylene glycol ether; or an amine; or R^{15} and R^{16} are in the form of a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic ring with the nitrogen atom having a total of 4 to about 12 carbon atoms; wherein when optionally substituted said R^{15} and R^{16} groups are substituted with a substituent selected from an alkyl having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms; an aryl; a halogen; a cyano group; an amino group; an alkene group; an alkoxycarbonyl group; an aryloxycarbonyl group; a carboxy group; an acyloxy group; a carbamoyl group; an alkylcarbonyl group; an alkylarylcarbonyl group; an arylcarbonyl group; an arylalkylcarbonyl group; a phthalimido group; a maleimido group; a succinimido group; amidino group; guanidimo group; allyl group; epoxy group; alkoxy group; an alkali metal salt; a quaternary ammonium salt; a hydroxyl group; an ether having a total of from 2 to about 20 carbon atoms; a nitro group; a sulfur group; phosphorous group a carboalkoxy group; ~~a heterocyclic group having one or more sulfur, oxygen or nitrogen atoms;~~ and combinations thereof.

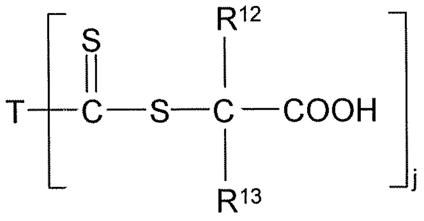
2. (previously amended) A composition according to claim 1, wherein j is 1, and wherein R^{12} and R^{13}, independently, are a phenyl group, or an alkyl group having 1 to about 10 carbon atoms, or wherein R^{12} and R^{13} are part of said cyclic ring.

3. (previously amended) A composition according to claim 1, wherein j is 1, and wherein R^{15} and R^{16}, independently, are a phenyl group, or an alkyl group having from 1 to about 10 carbon atoms, or hexamethylene, or wherein R^{15} and R^{16} are part of said cyclic ring.

4. (previously amended) A composition according to claim 2, wherein R^{15} and R^{16}, independently, are a phenyl group, or an alkyl group having from 1 to about 10 carbon atoms, or hexamethylene, or wherein R^{15} and R^{16} are part of said cyclic ring.

5. (previously amended) A composition according to claim 4, wherein R^{12} and R^{13} independently, are an alkyl having from 1 to about 4 carbon atoms, or wherein R^{12} and R^{13} are part of said cyclic ring.

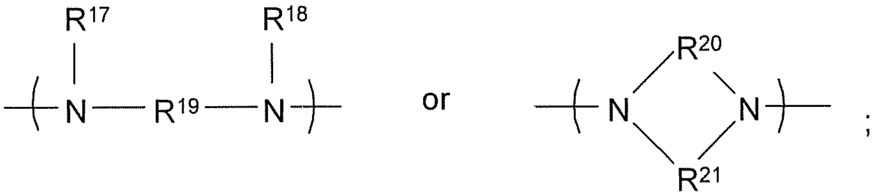
6. (previously amended) A composition comprising a dithiocarbamate compound having the formula:



wherein j is 2;

wherein R^{12} and R^{13}, independently, are the same or different, is optionally substituted, and is a linear or branched alkyl having from 1 to about 12 carbon atoms; or an aryl group having from 6 to about 18 carbon atoms; or R^{12} and R^{13} can form and be part of a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic ring having from 3 to about 12 carbon atoms, wherein said substituted groups above are independently selected from alkyl having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms; an aryl group; a halogen; a cyano group; an ether having a total of from 2 to about 20 carbon atoms; a nitro; and combinations thereof;

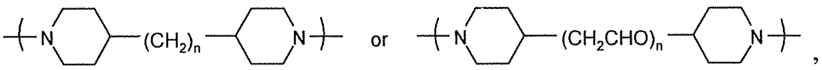
wherein T is a divalent radical having a nitrogen atom directly connected to each carbon atom of the two thiocarbonyl groups and is represented by the formulae:



wherein R^{17} and R^{18}, independently, are the same or different, are optionally substituted, and are hydrogen; a linear or branched alkyl having from 1 to about 18 carbon atoms; or an aryl group having from about 6 to about 18 carbon atoms; or an arylalkyl having from 7 to about 18 carbon atoms; or an alkenealkyl having from 3 to about 18 carbon atoms;

wherein R^{19} is optionally substituted, or is non-existent; or an alkylene group having from 1 to about 18 carbon atoms; or a polyalkylene glycol either having from 3 to about 200 carbon atoms; and wherein R^{20} and R^{21}, independently, are the same or different, and are optionally substituted, and are an alkylene group having from 1 to about 4 carbon atoms; wherein when optionally substituted said R^{17}, R^{18} R^{19}, R^{20} and R^{21} groups are substituted with a substituent selected from an alkyl having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms; an aryl; a halogen; a cyano group; a nitro group; an ether having a total of 2 to 20 carbon atoms; and combinations thereof.

7. (original) A composition according to claim 1, wherein j is 2 and wherein T is:



wherein n is 0 to about 18.

8. (previously amended) A composition according to claim 6,

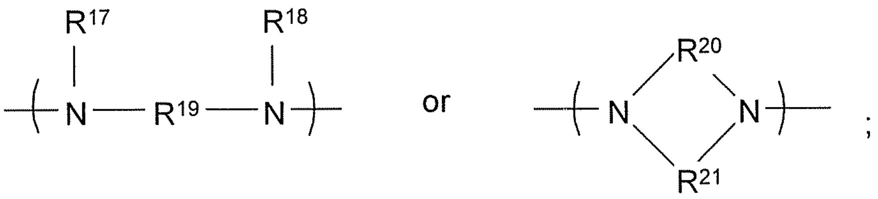
wherein R^{12} and R^{13}, independently, are a phenyl group, or an alkyl group having 1 to about 10 carbon atoms, or R^{12} and R^{13} are part of a cyclic ring having 3 to about 12 carbon atoms; and wherein R^{20} and R^{21} have a total of 3 to 5 carbon atoms.

9. (previously amended) A composition according to claim 7,

wherein R^{12} and R^{13}, independently, are a phenyl group, or an alkyl group having 1 to about 10 carbon atoms, or R^{12} and R^{13} are part of a cyclic ring having from 3 to about 12 carbon atoms; and wherein n is 0 to about 6.

10. to 29. (previously canceled)

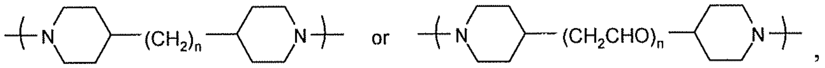
30. (previously amended) A composition of claim 1 wherein T is represented by the formulae:



wherein R^{17} and R^{18}, independently, are the same or different, are optionally substituted, and are hydrogen; a linear or branched alkyl having from 1 to about 18 carbon atoms; or an aryl group having from about 6 to about 18 carbon atoms; or an arylalkyl having from 7 to about 18 carbon atoms; or an alkenealkyl having from 3 to about 18 carbon atoms;

wherein R^{19} is optionally substituted, or is non-existent; or an alkylene group having from 1 to about 18 carbon atoms; or a polyalkylene glycol either having from 3 to about 200 carbon atoms; and wherein R^{20} and R^{21}, independently, are the same or different, and are optionally substituted, and are an alkylene group having from 1 to about 4 carbon atoms; wherein when optionally substituted said R^{17}, R^{18} R^{19}, R^{20} and R^{21} groups are substituted with a substituent selected from an alkyl having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms; an aryl; a halogen; a cyano group; a nitro group; an ether having a total of 2 to 20 carbon atoms; and combinations thereof.

31. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein T is represented by the formulae:



wherein n is 0 to about 18.